

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03425 131222Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /055 W

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R 17030Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2392

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HU

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT OF POLITBURO FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADER

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE HUNGARIAN JOURNALIST REPORTED THAT ON DECEMBER 10 ARPAD PULLAI, POLITBURO MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING FOREIGN POLICY, WAS SUDDENLY REPLACED BY BELA BISZKU. ALTHOUGH BISZKU HAS SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE REPUTATION BECAUSE OF HIS POLICE AND MILITARY WATCHDOG FUNCTION, HE IS CONSIDERED MORE MODERATE POLITICALLY THAN PULLAI AND IS PROBABLY KADAR'S MOST POLITICALLY TRUSTED COLLEAGUE.

2. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT KADAR FELT HE COULD NO LONGER TRUST PULLAI WHO IS KNOWN AS AN OPPORTUNIST WILLING TO PLAY ALONG WITH PRO-MOSCOW FACTION OF PARTY. KADAR ALLEGEDLY WANTED BISZKU IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING PREPARATION IN CARRYING OUT OF SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING OF EUROPEAN CP'S NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN BUDAPEST DECEMBER 19.
PEDERSEN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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